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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Confirmation No. 6427
Osamu NISHIMURA et al. : Docket No. 2001-0291A
Serial No. 09/806,871 : Group Art Unit 1653
Filed April 5, 2001 : Examiner David Lukton

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MAY 05 2003

METHOD FOR REMOVING
N-TERMINAL METHIONINE

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action dated April 1, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 38, replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 with the following paragraph:

The 0.6 Kb EcoRI-BamHI fragment, which codes for human pro-BTC (1-147 amino acid residue), was isolated from Plasmid pTB1515 described in Example 5 of Unexamined Kokai Application Heisei 6-87894 (EP-A-0555785). Upon ligating a synthetic adapter with ATG translation initiation codon (5'- TATGGATGGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 7); 5'- AATCCCCATCCA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 8)) into the EcoRI site of the 0.6 Kb fragment, the 0.6 Kb NdeI-BamHI fragment generated was inserted into plasmid pET-3c containing a T7 promoter (Gene, Vol. 56, p. 125 (1987)), to construct plasmid pTB1505.